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Hassan II offers pardon to opponent

RABAT (R) — One of the Moroccan monarchy's fiercest opponents, sentenced to death four times for plotting against the throne, has been offered a pardon by King Hassan, political party sources said on Wednesday. The "Fqih" (teacher) Mohammed Bassi, a founder of the Moroccan resistance movement before independence in 1956, was first condemned to death in 1963 for plotting against the monarchy but reprieved by the king two years later. He was sentenced to death again in 1971, 1972 and 1973 for his alleged part in the assassination of the king's father, Mohammed V. Bassi, who is in his early sixties, received the offer of a royal pardon and an invitation to return to Morocco at two meetings in Paris with Interior Minister Driss Bassi (no relation) in February and May, party sources said. The sources said Mr. Bassi had indicated his willingness to return but had expressed the wish that the king would also grant an amnesty at the same time to all political prisoners in Morocco. It is not yet known whether the king has agreed to a general amnesty for political prisoners.

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Reagan reports Bonn's assurance over Hamadei

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan said Wednesday he had been assured by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that accused hijacker Mohammed Hamadei will be tried for the murder of an American sailor and not granted clemency if convicted, the White House announced. Mr. Reagan's spokesman Martin Fitzwater gave details of the assurances after West Germany announced it had formally rejected U.S. requests for the extradition of Mr. Hamadei (see page 2), who is accused of killing U.S. navy diver Robert Stethem during the seizure of Trans World Airlines (TWA) Flight 847 in June 1985.

Peres in Paris

PARIS (AP) — Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, arrived Wednesday in Paris for the latest in a round of talks with European leaders on calls for an international Middle East peace conference. Mr. Peres, who arrived from London, had a working lunch with his French counterpart, Jean-Bernard Raimond, with whom he met three weeks ago in Israel. Mr. Peres was to meet later Wednesday with French President Francois Mitterrand. On Thursday, Mr. Peres was to meet with Premier Jacques Chirac, along with former Premier Raymond Barre, and Lionel Jospin, first secretary of the Socialist Party. Mr. Peres was to go on to Bonn on Monday.

Israel delays Nakash extradition

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli supreme court judge on Wednesday delayed the extradition to France of a Jewish immigrant convicted of murdering an Arab lawyer, his appeal next week. Lawyers for William Nakash submitted the appeal to the supreme court Monday after Justice Minister Avraham Shinar decided to extradite the 24-year-old French Jew. But Judge Menachem Elon barred the justice ministry and prison authorities from preparing the extradition until the appeal is heard by a three-judge panel next Thursday.

Lebanese officer killed in Tyre

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Gunmen on Wednesday killed a Lebanese army intelligence officer who was a liaison officer with U.N. peacekeepers in South Lebanon, police said. They said the attackers ambushed Captain Kazem Darwish, head of army intelligence in the Tyre area, as he drove to Tyre barracks. Capt. Darwish played an important liaison role last year when French troops in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon came under attack by Shi'ite militants.

Swiss offer to host Mideast conference

BERN (AP) — Neutral Switzerland stands ready to have Geneva host a future international peace conference on the Middle East, the government said Wednesday. Foreign Minister Pierre Abert reaffirmed Switzerland's offer in recent visits to Middle East countries, the ruling Federal Council said in response to a question from parliament.

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King visits Damascus for talks with Assad

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Wednesday paid a working visit to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on topics believed related to efforts for Middle East peace and settling Iraqi-Syrian differences.

The King and President Assad held two rounds of closed meetings in addition to expanded talks attended by senior officials from both sides. The King is accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh. No details were available of the two leaders' talks, but news agencies speculated that the King was pursuing his efforts to settle differences between President Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The King, on his seventh visit to Damascus since 1985, is believed to follow up talks with President Assad last month which centred on Arab solidarity and the prospects for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Both Syria and Jordan have agreed to the conference, to be held in Amman. The King has had similar discussions with President Hussein of Iraq as part of his endeavours to bring the Syrian and Iraqi leaders together ahead of a projected Arab summit. Jordan and Saudi Arabia have jointly led Arab efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria, ruled by rival factions of the Baath Socialist Party.

Diplomats quoted by Reuters said the King would probably also exchange views with President Assad ahead of the monarch's expected visit to London next month to seek European support for the proposed international conference on Middle East peace.

Kidnappers free Osseiran; Syria pursues push for Glass' release

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria will continue to press for the release of U.S. hostage Charles Glass, who failed to appear when two of his fellow Lebanese captives were freed in southern Lebanon early Wednesday, a senior Syrian official said. "Syria is exercising military and administrative pressures on all levels for this purpose," the high-placed official told reporters in the Syrian capital. He asked not to be named.

Earlier, in South Lebanon, the exhausted son of Lebanon's defence minister swam to freedom after a week-long kidnapping ordeal he suffered to protect the 36-year-old American newsmen from California.

The kidnappers who released Ali Osseiran and his police driver defied intense Syrian pressure to release Mr. Glass as well. All three men were seized in west Beirut on June 17.

Two family sources said Mr. Osseiran was freed around dawn from a small boat, off the Lebanese coast near Sidon. But a Syrian official quoted by AP said they were let go huddled on the coastal highway.

Defence Minister Adel Osseiran said Mr. Glass was still alive and efforts to free him would continue. Ali Osseiran, dressed in navy blue trousers and a dark blue shirt, appeared briefly on the balcony of the family home in the seaside town of Rmeil, 30 kilometres south of Beirut.

Top Seoul dissident freed; opposition says talks failed

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan released the country's most prominent dissident from house arrest on Wednesday after a day in which he did little else that pleased his vocal opposition. More than 100 wildly enthusiastic supporters cheered as police buses pulled away from the home of veteran dissident Kim Dae-Jung after standing guard there for more than two months.

His release is a step forward for anti-government protesters who have staged two weeks of demonstrations around the country demanding free elections and the resignation of President Chun. An end to Mr. Kim's house arrest was also a condition for unprecedented political summit talks that were held on Wednesday between Mr. Chun and Kim Young-Sam, joint leader with Kim Dae-Jung of the hardline opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP).

But despite the summit and Mr. Kim's release, prospects for an end to the country's political turmoil looked faint. Kim Young-Sam called the meeting with Mr. Chun unsatisfactory, and an RDP statement talked frankly of "failure."

Kim Dae-Jung, 63, emerged from his home after his release and greeted reporters and the mob of jubilant supporters. He said that he, too, was disappointed with the meeting between Mr. Chun and Kim Young-Sam, and he set out opposition goals, including free elections and a referendum to decide on electoral reform. Mr. Kim, who was put under house arrest for founding the RDP, called for the establishment of a pan-national neutral cabinet and caretaker government to run the country until elections. He did not spell out how they should be chosen. Despite Mr. Kim's release,

attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the Middle East conflict.

King Hussein's visit comes two weeks after Syrian Premier Abdul Raouf Al Kasm visited Jordan to discuss economic and political affairs.

The King was received upon arrival at Damascus airport on Wednesday by President Assad, Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Vice-President Mohammad Zuhair Masharqah, Prime Minister Kasm and cabinet members and Jordan's Ambassador in Damascus Ali Khreis.

In a separate meeting, Mr. Rifai and Dr. Kasm discussed bilateral cooperation and ways to further strengthen relations between the two countries, Petra said. The meeting, held at the Syrian Prime Ministry, was attended by Mr. Qasem and Mr. Abu Odeh, Petra added.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were guests of honour at a banquet hosted by President Assad. It was attended by senior Syrian officials.

The duration of the King's visit to Damascus was not known.

Asked where Mr. Glass was, the 40-year-old engineer paused, then replied sadly, "I don't know."

A bodyguard attached to the Osseiran family told AP that Ali Osseiran had dinner with Mr. Glass on Tuesday night, but would not give further details.

The younger Osseiran and his driver Suleiman Salman were freed in the early morning. A Syrian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were let go huddled on the coastal highway near the southern port city of Sidon.

Rebels say 138 Iranian soldiers killed or wounded

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's main opposition group said Wednesday its forces killed or wounded 138 Iranian government troops in attacks on four government military bases near the border with Iraq.

The RDP said it, "along with all other democratic forces, would fight to the end to achieve democracy and crush the government's plot to hold on to power permanently."

U.S. trinitroshooter Gaston Sigur, who arrived here on Tuesday, held lengthy talks with Mr. Chun and his chosen heir Roh Tae-Woo but delayed a scheduled visit to Kim Dae-Jung's house until mid-evening.

After his release, Mr. Kim Dae-Jung declined to disclose details of their discussion. For the 15th straight day there were campus and street disturbances in South Korean cities. Police said nearly 10,000 students from 40 universities took part, but gave no details of clashes.

Meanwhile about 700 workers and students, called up by dissident labour groups, fought running battles with riot police in an industrial southern suburb before being scattered by volleys of tear gas.

It was the first time that organized labour had become involved in the latest wave of anti-government protests. Trade unions, under strict government control, have so far stayed aloof from the turmoil in the streets.

Students, opposition activists and dissidents from Christian and human rights groups spearheaded the protests, which began in earnest on June 10 when Mr. Roh officially became the government party's candidate to succeed Mr. Chun next February.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and senior officials see off His Majesty King Hussein upon his departure for a short visit to Damascus on Wednesday (Petra photo)

Iraqis hit Turkish ship near Kharg

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its naval units rocketed a large ship near Iran's crucial Kharg Island oil terminal, its third attack in five days on shipping in the Gulf after a one-month lull.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said that the attackers scored an accurate and effective hit in the early morning raid on a "large maritime target."

"The strike was in implementation of Iraq's resolve to cut off the enemy's oil supplies used for prolongation of the war," a spokesman said in another dispatch, from the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

In London, the Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit said the 30,600-tonne Turkish bulk carrier Hira III was hit by an Iraqi missile off the Iranian coast and seven crewmen were injured.

Gulf-based marine salvage executives, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ship was hit by a missile about 10 nautical miles off the Iranian port of Bushehr, which is close to Kharg.

Earlier, Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Iranian jet fighters shot down an Iraqi helicopter early in the day after it attacked a merchant ship near Bushehr.

It was not clear whether the Iraqi and Iranian reports referred to the same ship attacks. Iraq did not specify what type of "naval units" were used in the attack, but Baghdad's navy is believed to have helicopters.

Turkish state radio said the fire was put out by the ship's crew, helped by Iranian tugs. The injured were taken by Iranian navy helicopter to the Iranian port of Bushehr, and the ship was under tow to Dubai, it said.

There was no immediate claim from Baghdad that its jets had hit a ship on Wednesday. Iraq Tuesday night said its naval units had struck a "large naval target" near Iran's Bandar Khomeini port at the head of the Gulf. There was no independent confirmation.

(Continued on page 3)

Kuwait steps up campaign for backing against threats

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait on Wednesday stepped up its campaign to rally international and regional support for its moves to avert further Iranian attacks on its shipping.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad left for Saudi Arabia at the outset of a tour of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states to deliver messages on the implications of the Iranian threats.

Sheikh Sabah on Tuesday sent a message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar urging international condemnation of the Iranian threats against his country.

"The Kuwaiti moves are aimed at explaining the serious situation in the Arabian Gulf resulting from the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and the threats to navigation in international waters of the Gulf," Sheikh Sabah told reporters.

He said the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, asked him to convey messages to the GCC leaders over the latest developments in the region "within the framework of consultations aimed at maintaining the region's stability and security."

The GCC groups Kuwait with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates in a regional economic and security alliance. The group have

Arabs stage massive strike to protest Israeli discrimination

Israeli troops shoot and wound Nablus woman

NAZARETH (Agencies) — Israel's 700,000-strong Arab minority staged an unprecedented general strike on Wednesday in protest at the Israeli government's discrimination in favour of Jews.

The strike call appeared to be almost totally observed in shops, schools, factories and fields in the main Arab areas of northern Israel, witnesses quoted by Reuters said.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, shops were closed after an Arab woman was shot and wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire on Palestinian demonstrators.

The Israeli army ordered Al Najah University in Nablus and the Abu Dis College of Education outside Jerusalem closed to prevent possible sympathy demonstrations.

Iraq welcomes superpower effort to end war; Iran rebuffs U.N. bid

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was quoted on Wednesday as saying he believed the superpowers did not want an international conflict in the Gulf and were seriously trying to halt the Iran-Iraq war.

He also said Iran's fighting will be weakening in the war, now nearing the end of its seventh year.

In an interview with the Yugoslav newspaper Borda and published by the Iraqi press, President Hussein said:

"Despite the intentions of different international parties, we believe there is a general framework within which the big powers are moving more seriously to take resolutions that will try to step the war."

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have drafted a ceasefire proposal, but not yet agreed on backing it up with an arms embargo. The five are the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France.

President Hussein said he believed the superpowers did not want to start an international conflict in the Gulf "because if such a thing happens, it will add new complications for the region."

The United States has announced a naval buildup in the Gulf to counter a perceived threat from Iran to international shipping and the export of oil through the strategic waterway.

President Hussein said Iraq's fighting will be strengthening "and declining on the other side (Iran)."

Iran meanwhile signalled no compromise to the U.N. bid to halt the Gulf war, declaring it would reject any resolution which did not declare Iraq the "aggressor."

Iran's Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said on Tehran Radio that any U.N. Security Council resolution would be valueless unless it condemned Iraq as the "aggressor" and suggested a way of putting the

"aggressor" on trial. The five permanent Security Council members have drafted a ceasefire proposal but have not yet agreed on the threat of an arms embargo to back it up.

Mr. Mousavi's headline statement followed criticism from Iran's top defence spokesman Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani that the U.N. did not consult Tehran about the peace bid.

Mr. Mousavi said the Security Council had remained silent in the face of "crimes" committed by Iraq and therefore had no right to express its views on the outcome of the war.

He told the radio: "We still believe in the same thing and that is, we shall oppose any international organisation, whatever it might be and at whatever level including the Security Council which decides to support a regime by showing bias."

"Should it follow its (previous) stance, the decisions of this council will have no value and we declare this in advance."

EC and GCC back U.N. efforts for peace in Gulf

BRUSSELS (R) — Ministers from the European Community (EC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have backed United Nations attempts to end the Iran-Iraq war and to keep shipping lanes in the Gulf open.

In a statement issued after talks here Tuesday night, ministers from the two blocs also repeated their support for an international Middle East peace conference.

The informal talks were scheduled several months ago to discuss a planned economic pact between the two sides and to exchange views on easing tensions in the Gulf.

They involved ministers from three community countries — Belgium, Britain and Denmark — and from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman and Saudi Arabia representing the six-nation Gulf Council.

Diplomats said the two sides remained split on what sort of access to give Gulf states to community markets under an economic pact, although they agreed to try to open formal negotiations by the end of this year.

But the political discussions which dominated the meeting produced large areas of agreement, they said.

The statement said the EC and the GCC, "gave their support to the concerted international efforts aiming at ending the Iran-Iraq war and in particular to the activities of the U.N. secretary general and of the U.N. Security Council."

"The ministers emphasised that the freedom of navigation and the free flow of oil and other traffic through the Gulf is of utmost importance," it said.

U.N. diplomats in New York said Tuesday the five permanent members of the Security Council submitted their ideas for a ceasefire resolution to the council's current elected members.

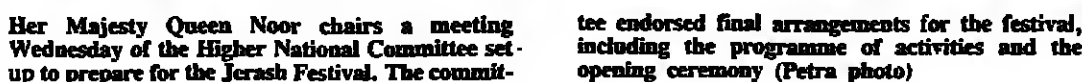
They said the permanent members — Britain, France, China, the Soviet Union and the United States — were still considering how to back up a demand for a halt to hostilities with a threat of an arms embargo.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans told a news conference early Wednesday morning the EC-GCC meeting had not been intended as a formal negotiating session.

But he said: "It was a step forward in the framework of a developing friendship which will help us arrive at a solution."

On the situation in the Gulf, Mr. Tindemans declined to comment on a U.S. idea of organising a Western naval force to protect shipping.

The statement also urged all travellers to try and bring all the required documents so as to avoid any inconvenience.



On Saturday, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Information Michael Hamarneh will hold a press conference at which he will present details about the Jerash festival.

"Iran's claim about alleged fighting in the area is an attempt to cover up the heavy losses its forces sustained," an Iraqi spokesman said earlier in a Baghdad Radio broadcast.

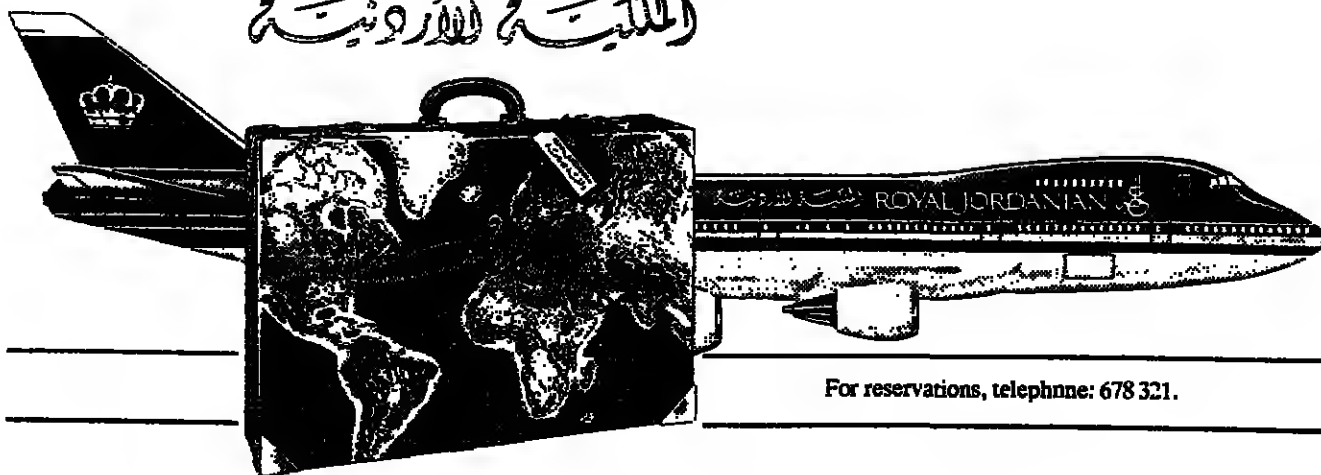
According to Dr. Lawzi, a ministry committee charged with purchasing cereals from local farmers has met to discuss purchases of cereals to be conducted through the Jordan Valley, Irbid, Jweideh and Karak purchasing centres.

Last month, a delegation from the European Investment Bank visited the Sahab Industrial City and inspected various installations. They also met Jordanian government officials to discuss EC aid to Jordan.



AMMAN (Petra) — Syria, Iraq, Kuwait and Egypt will be participating in a book exhibition which will be held during the sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts due to start on July 8. The Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) director general, Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, said that large collections of new books and publications on various subjects will be displayed and sold to the public at reduced prices.

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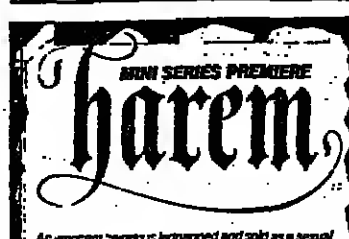
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Muslims, Arabs and 'The Dingo Principle'

By Dr. Ibrahim Ata



The above is part of an advertisement for an Australian satirical TV programme.

The writer, a lecturer of social sciences at Australian universities, is the author of several books and articles on Arab and Muslim immigrants to Australia. He often contributes to the Jordan Times.

"THE Dingo Principle's" recent portrayal of Muslims, and particularly the Ayatollah, is not merely an example of hard hitting Australian satire but a symptom of a body of theory and practice which is unfortunately far too prevalent in the Western media when it deals with Muslims and Arabs.

The web of racism, socio-cultural stereotyping, and dehumanising ideology against both Muslims and Arabs remains strong, and its expression is rarely subtle.

Among things that "The Dingo Principle" failed to note is that whatever the excesses of the Iranian regime today, the regime before Khomeini was far more systematically oppressive. The excesses of the Savak, the Shah's secret police, were rarely reported with the same kind of details. Having said that, one is alarmed at many things that are still occurring in that country. The depiction of Khomeini might not be offensive in itself if it is seen in the context of satirical tradition, but the frustration of

Arabs and Muslims with such portrayals is understandable. Often it must seem to them that narrow, bigoted interpretations of their way of life are the only ones made available to Westerners by the media.

In a recent survey with a colleague (at Hawthorn Institute) of 400 year — 12 students in 28 schools in Victoria a sizable portion (56.1 per cent) noted that their main source of information concerning Muslims and Arabs is television and films. This is quite depressing for a number of reasons, but primarily as television has become such an effective arbiter of right and wrong. It has also become both the judge and the jury of what does or does not appeal to the average Australian. During the past five years numerous films which have depicted typical anti-Muslim and anti-Arab stereotypes have proliferated in Australia's commercial cinemas and on TV channels. Such recent films as "Protocol," "Jewel of the Nile," "Never Say Never Again," "Bohmeria," "Best Defence," "Sahara," "Camomball II," "The Ambassador," "St. Emo's Fire," "Iron Ball," and "Delta Force" are only a few of those which depict Muslims and Arabs as lecherous, terrorists, lazy, primitive, corrupt, evil or

threatening the Western way of life. Suddenly the image of the Muslim-Arab parallels the image of a Jew in pre-Nazi Germany. Even in a seemingly harmless comedy such as "Blazing Saddles" Arabs appear side by side with Nazi soldiers.

Studies showing the effect of television on public opinion, and to some extent the formation of foreign policy, are abundant.

Arabs do not fare any better in the Australian press than they do in television and films. Its treatment of this religious/racial group has reduced them to two images: Firstly as more or less primitive and bloodthirsty terrorists; and secondly that of irresponsible and corrupt billionaires. Portrayal of Arabs and Muslims has generally been a potpourri of prejudices, incorrect data and omission.

In an article featured in *The Age* (May 14, 1987) with a sketch of the Ayatollah kneeling in a traditional Islamic way next to a grim skeleton of his, and armed with a rifle, a sword, and carrying an evil looking bird, the following question is raised: "But how far from reality was the sketch?" ... Quoting Amnesty International report the article reads: "Most executions are by hanging or firing squad. Stomping to death is

attack on a country's right to base its laws on its religious and socio-cultural traditions. In *The Australian* (29.4.1987) the show's executive producer exclaimed: "Satire is always going to offend someone ... I don't think our satirists should be more sensitive. You can't do satire if you have to look over your shoulder. It becomes censorial."

Notes *The Bulletin* (12.5.1987): "In their Shi'ite version of revolutionary Islam the Tehran Mullahs do not make customary Western distinctions between religion and politics ... But there is one basic, and novel, difference between the Iranian revolution and the other revolutionary upheavals of this century. It's quite literally, not of this world ... Its realisation is subjective. Abnegation is a reward. Death a fulfillment."

The Ayatollah as depicted by "The Dingo Principle" is certainly a cartoon character. Stock cartoonists like to be considered satirists, they can also be absorbed in a brief glance by tens of thousands of readers not willing to search for cultural and religious realities.

A survey of Melbourne's largest comic shop shows that the most vilified and targeted group is the Muslim/Arab. Their preva-

lence and visibility in comics and cartoons has become part of an unquestionable daily reality in Australia. A typical caricature is the face of a Muslim with dark glasses, long hooked nose and unkempt beard. One example of this stereotype appeared in *The Age* Dec. 15, 1986. A sheikh with an evil smile and wearing a dagger stares lecherously at a blonde dressed in a bikini, and is encouraged by his maharaja friend who intones: "There is no rest for the wicked."

By associating Arabs and Muslims with satanic evil, the Australian and other Western media, promote a pattern of racist scapegoating, as the world has witnessed knows no barriers of boundaries.

Indeed, in many ways, the word Muslim has become an abstraction, a projection, a malevolent invention, a tool of suppression.

This article will certainly not change the nature of the relationship between Muslim communities and those who inflicted injustice on them, but it is both a just outcry and a fulfilment of Edward Said's *Orientalism* prophecy that Islam once again is being forced into apologetic form of a plea for Islam's humanism and progress.

Raising the temperature

AS Washington spokesmen repeat that an attack on Iran's Silkworm missiles is under consideration, the United States is consciously raising the temperature in the Gulf. It cannot be said to be intensifying a conflict which has already seen such appalling slaughter, but it has added a new dimension by making big power involvement and the internationalisation of the war a real and immediate possibility.

It makes little difference that the signals from Washington are confused and contradictory. Attacking the missile silos is only one of several options under consideration and in any case depends upon the missiles being deployed. But Senators Warner and Glenn have made clear their belief that a pre-emptive strike is likely to be necessary as soon as the missiles are deployed in a way that could block the Straits of Hormuz. The chairman of the U.S. chiefs of staff, Admiral Crowe, on the other hand, has said he thinks that the U.S. navy escorting Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag should be sufficient protection. He believes it would not be a high risk operation and although the U.S. cannot rule out Iran escalating the war, he maintains Iran has been "even more cautious than previously" since the Iraqi Xocet attack on the U.S. ship.

Meanwhile, President Reagan, with his description of Iran as "barbaric," has abandoned any pretence of U.S. neutrality in the war. Clearly a Libyan-style operation against Iran is something that he would consider and, as before, once the threat has been made, it is difficult for the U.S. not to take some positive action. It is no wonder that many congressmen, Republican as well as Democrat, have become deeply alarmed at the trend.

It is hardly surprising that the other Gulf states are uncertain in their response to an American policy which is so unclear. Superficially, Kuwait has most reason to be satisfied with the trend. By threatening to turn to the USSR — an option which it is still maintaining — it has elicited the American offer to give 11 of its tankers the protection of the U.S. flag. But even Kuwait must fear the possibility of a pre-emptive strike against Iran. Other GCC members are probably agnostic. Since it is difficult and dangerous to manoeuvre aircraft carriers in the Gulf, an anti-missile strike would have to be launched from land bases. It is most unlikely that Saudi Arabia or Oman would accept the enormous risks this would entail, for Bahrain and the UAE it would be out of the question.

As the Iranate hearings rumble on there is also the question of U.S. sincerity in its decision to grasp the Iranian nettle. If U.S. policy has shifted from Iraq to Iran and back again could it not make one more shuttle? At present the U.S. is trying to reassure its disgruntled Arab friends but this may not remain a priority for long. These doubts are helping to delay what is now the most logical and sensible step — a Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire and arms embargo. Some of the necessary elements for this are there. The U.S. and USSR are now quite close in their views on the Gulf although they both still shrink from overt cooperation. Britain and France would not be obstacles and even China claims that it is really North Korea which is supplying the Silkworms. The truth of this statement is less important than the fact that it was made. But a Security Council resolution would have to have some appearance of even-handedness to avoid rendering Iran even more stubborn. The trouble is that for some years only Iran has been rejecting a ceasefire. But it might be possible to introduce the question of responsibility for starting the war. The Iraqis have said that they are quite prepared to put their case on this point. The time has come to put this to the test — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shultz' State Department

OBSERVERS of American policies can easily discover that the U.S. State Department under George Shultz has not achieved any real successes. They can also see that the defiance and arrogance and shortsightedness have continued to characterise America's policies under Shultz. The setbacks which the Reagan administration has been dealt over the past years on the domestic front gave the State Department a free hand to handle all aspects of foreign policy in a manner that does not lend any regard to the reaction of world public opinion. Such instance of America's foreign policy can be seen in the latest State Department statement which regarded the Soviet Union as an unqualified party to take part in the proposed Middle East peace conference. Of course the international community scoffs at such statement, but we have to point to this shortsightedness on the part of a superpower like the United States and its harmful consequences on international relations. It should be said that no lasting peace, stability or security can be achieved if they are to be worked out in harmony with the policies of the State Department in Washington which supports injustice and aggression and also hegemony on other nations. If Washington does not want the Palestinians, China and the Soviet Union to attend the conference, nor does it want a European role in such an affair there will be no conference which can achieve peace.

Al Dustour: Campaigning for peace or elections?

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' current tour of European capitals is aimed at promoting the Israeli-version of an international peace conference, one that is considered naive; and a ridiculous attempt to peddle the ideas of the Israeli Labour Party. Peres has not been able to persuade the Likud bloc, Labour's partner in the present coalition government, with his ideas and has not been able to call for a general election in Israel to determine this issue. The countries that Peres is visiting have all declared support for an international conference to achieve peace between Israel and the Arab countries, and these countries do not obstruct efforts for peace and do not adopt an intransigent position similar to that of Israel in this respect. If any campaign is to be launched to enlist support for the conference it should be held inside Israel which continues to obstruct peace efforts. Therefore, Peres is representing no more than himself in his current tour; and according to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Peres' ideas carry no official government view. In fact, Peres is obsessed with the idea of presenting himself as a caller for peace and so he undertook the European tour and is pursuing his aimless talks with European leaders. We believe that European government leaders would not be taken in by any ideas which Israel is now presenting to them; and we consider the Brussels declaration as a general framework for Europe's policies regarding the situation in the Middle East.

Soviets extend influence in Gulf, Middle East

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The Soviet Union, exploiting an erratic U.S. foreign policy, is spreading its influence in the Gulf.

And despite Washington's insistence that a U.S. naval presence in the Gulf is vital to freedom of navigation, U.S. officials have stressed the need to counter Soviet advances in the Gulf and the Arab World in general.

President Ronald Reagan, commenting on the need for a U.S. presence to protect shipping from Iranian attacks in the war against Iraq, stressed: "If we don't do it, the Soviets will."

The Soviets have been quietly making diplomatic inroads in the Gulf for some time. But the pace and intensity has quickened amid both the impasse in U.S. efforts to find a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and last November's disclosure of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran with Israel's help.

The U.S. arms sales, a violation of Washington's stated policy, sent shock waves through the Arab World, particularly the traditionally Western-oriented Gulf states. These countries, fearful of an Iranian victory in the war against Iraq, were appalled to find the Americans arming Iran.

Congress increased Arab unease by refusing to approve the sale of sophisticated weapons to moderate Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan on the grounds they could be used against Israel or fall into terrorist hands.

Now some Arab states have

turned to Western Europe and the Soviet union for their hardware.

Many Western analysts believe that the balance of influence in the region is moving inexorably in the Soviets' favour.

U.S. senator Daniel Moynihan said of Soviet encroachment: "The great geopolitical prize of the 20th century is now within their grasp."

In recent months, Moscow has scored several significant gains:

— The Soviets played a key role in reuniting Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation with Syrian-backed radicals and in pressing Syrian President Hafez Assad to reconcile with Arafat, ending a four-year split.

— The Soviets, along with Saudi Arabia and Jordan, are the driving force behind renewed efforts to reconcile President Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, two of Moscow's main Arab friends. The nine-year rift is blocking a long-delayed Arab summit.

— Moscow has patched up relations with Egypt, once its closest Arab ally and lately a key U.S. friend. 15 years after the late President Anwar Sadat threw the Soviets out, Moscow has rescheduled a \$3 billion debt on easy terms, while the Americans still are haggling with Cairo over a \$4.5 billion military debt.

— Moscow quickly moved to help Kuwait protect its shipping in the Gulf war, leasing it three tankers, after the Emirate requested superpower assistance. U.S. moves to reflag Kuwaiti tankers under the stars and stripes have been delayed be-

cause of congressional opposition, further undermining Arab confidence in Washington.

— The Soviets have in the last 18 months opened diplomatic relations with Oman and the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf.

Diplomats in the Gulf believe it is only a matter of time before Moscow establishes links with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar. It has long had relations with Kuwait.

For the last 50 years, the theocratic Saudis, guardians of Islam's holiest shrines, have denounced the Soviet system, which officially preaches atheism, as the enemy of all Muslims.

More recently, the Saudis have condemned the Soviet invasion of Muslim Afghanistan. But that criticism has become more muted amid Soviet assertions that it wants to leave Afghanistan.

King Fahd's eldest son, Prince Faisal, and Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer have visited Moscow.

Senior Soviet officials have been criss-crossing the Arab World in recent months in an ever-increasing diplomatic drive by the Kremlin.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said during a Gulf tour in April that the region is of "paramount political importance to the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, which endeavours to develop relations with all states in the region."

The Soviets have long viewed the Gulf as strategic to their interests, paying special attention to Iran.

The Gulf has largely been insulated from Soviet influence since

World War II, and the Soviets have sought for decades to break the Western monopoly of influence in the region.

The Gulf assumed even greater importance for the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, because Moscow is expected to become an importer of oil by the end of the century.

Despite Iranian criticism of the Soviet Union, Moscow has fared better than the United States in improving relations with Tehran.

The Soviets, by keeping their naval presence in the Gulf to a minimum, have kept their options open with Tehran while the Americans have moved into confrontation with the Islamic republic.

"We don't believe the Russians are following the American experience very closely," Iran's official news agency quoted a foreign ministry official in Tehran as saying recently.

"We believe the Soviets are more pragmatic than the Americans, who have tested their involvement in the region and received blows from the militant Muslim people."

Militarily, the Soviet navy's Pacific fleet, whose zone of operations includes the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf, has been built up with aircraft carriers, missile cruisers and submarines.

These give it a qualitative edge in some classes of warship over the U.S. navy in the region.

The Soviet fleet is limited by a lack of land bases. But it remains a powerful force in an area where the oil lifelines of the West and Japan are vulnerable.

Israeli military solicits contributions

By Adam Tanner
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Israel, with one of the world's longest military service requirements and highest levels of taxation, is asking the public for donations to the armed forces.

Through advertisements in newspapers, magazines, posters, and even the telephone book, the defence ministry urges Israelis to "make a donation to Libi — the fund for the security of Israel."

Libi must raise funds from a population whose men already serve three years from age 18-21 in the Israeli army, and return every year for a month of reserve duty until age 55. Women must complete two years of compulsory military service.

In addition to providing manpower, Israelis pay 35 to 40 per cent of their earnings in income taxes, about a quarter of which goes to the army.

Nonetheless, Libi has managed to raise \$70 million dollars since its inception in 1980. The money is spent on education for underprivileged soldiers, advanced weapons development and medical supplies.

Libi's fundraisers are themselves soldiers and reserve officers.

Most of the cash comes from inheritances. Donors are quietly encouraged to include Libi in their wills. An official in its Tel Aviv office said Libi has received funds from about 100 wills, some bequeathing apartments and other valuables.

Libi is not the only organisation soliciting donations for the military.

The spokesman for a separate private fundraising organisation said Israelis have a special regard for the army and are willing to

give additional contributions.

"Of course it's very difficult to raise money, but I have to say there's another attitude when it comes to soldiers," said Chaim Lifshitz of the Association for the Welfare of Soldiers in Israel (AWSI).

Lifshitz said his group raised about \$15 million dollars last year.

Libi collects only within Israel, occasionally attracting donations from American and other tourists. AWSI receives about 20 per cent of its fund from Europe and

North America, Lifshitz said.

Not all the fundraising efforts reach their target. The two associations accidentally sent a joint appeal last April to 900,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank who have endured Israeli military occupation for 20 years.

LETTERS

JTV ratings

To the Editor:

YOUR weekly Saturday review of JTV's foreign programmes is a greatly appreciated service by all viewers. However, the inclusion of an addendum to complement this review would, I presume, render it more interesting and useful.

Allow me, in this regard, to suggest that you start introducing, with the cooperation of JTV, a rating system for the different programmes, or at least for films, bestsellers, and plays.

The rating process may be carried out by grading or placing symbols next to the programmes' titles in the form of stars, figures, or any other appropriate signs. Therefore, the more stars a programme gets the better it must be. Thus, the viewers will get a hint on the quality of the proposed programmes, and consequently be able to choose the ones that most satisfy their tastes and intellects, and disregard the less rewarding.

The following is an example of a suggested rating pattern (using asterisks):

Rating symbol	Clue
★★★★	Not to be missed
★★★★	Highly recommended
★★★	Pleasantly entertaining
★★	Optional due mediocrity
★	Waste of time

The prerequisites to such a rating system are the "objective" consideration of the following:

- A. The quality of production.
- B. The story or subject matter.
- C. The acting.
- D. The filming quality and techniques.
- E. The music.
- F. Other factors the viewers deem important.

Finally, a further relevant suggestion would be to ask The Jordan Times to launch, from time to time on its pages, questionnaires requesting the readers' appraisals of the rating process. The feedback received would undoubtedly reflect their agreement or disagreement with the rating's standard and accuracy, and will help its future improvement.

I trust that the above proposals will be met with your kind attention, and look forward to their early implementation.

Samir A. Carmi
P.O. Box 554
Amman

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Fred Astaire, seen here in his Hollywood heyday tapping with his most famous dancing partner Ginger Rogers, died of pneumonia in Los Angeles Monday at the age of 88.

Astaire — the dancing legend of Hollywood

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Fred Astaire brought to the film world his top hat, white tie and tails and an elegant, dazzling style of dancing that left audiences breathless.

Astaire died in hospital on Monday of pneumonia. He was 88.

In his later years he built a second career as a character actor. But he will be remembered for his stylish dancing, with his bewildering array of intricate steps, that made him one of Hollywood's major box office attractions for 35 years.

His string of dancing partners reads like a Hollywood "who's who" — Ginger Rogers, his most famous partner, Cyd Charisse, Eleanor Powell, Rita Hayworth, Vera Ellen, Ann Miller, Leslie Caron, Betty Hutton, Judy Garland, Audrey Hepburn and others.

With his dancing came a thin, clipped but catchy singing voice and a light-hearted sense of humour.

"My films were meant to be fun," Astaire said. "They weren't pretentious and never tried to prove anything. They were entertainment — period."

He gave millions of people far from the big cities their first taste of professional dancing, paving the way for dancers like Gene Kelly.

Fashionable and urbane both on and off screen, Astaire was born Frederick Austerlitz on May 10, 1899, in Omaha, Nebraska, the son of an Austrian beer salesman and a mother who, in Astaire's words, was the boss of the family.

His mother, Anna Austerlitz, launched Astaire and his elder sister, Adele, on a dancing career. The pair made their first appearances in schools and church halls.

The mother moved the family to New York where the children were hailed as prodigies. From being billed as "Fred and Adele Astaire in new songs and smart dances," they moved up to a Broadway show, "Over the Top," starring Ed Wynn, in 1917.

This was followed by "Apple Blossoms" and "For Goodness Sake," which took the Astaires to London and made them stars on both sides of the Atlantic.

They danced their way through "Lady Be Good," "Funny Face" and "The Bandwagon," before Adele left the stage in 1932, to marry Lord Cavendish, son of the Duke of Devonshire, and live in Ireland.

Alone, Astaire starred in "The Gay Divorcee," which won him his first Hollywood offer — a featured role with Ginger Rogers in "Flying Down to Rio."

An earlier film test had produced this report on Astaire: "Can't act. Slightly bald. Can dance a little."

The teaming of Astaire and Rogers produced the most famous dancing partnership in screen history. They made nine films together, including "Follow the Fleet," "Shall We Dance," "Swingtime" and "Roberta," and earned more than \$30 million in box office receipts at a time of low income tax.

Their musical "Top Hat," now considered a classic, took only six weeks to make and cost just \$620,000. The words of the song, "Puttin' on My Top Hat," became the unofficial trademark for Astaire.

He accepted the good life in full — his mansion in Beverly Hills overlooking Hollywood, his staff of servants, his friends with the former Prince of Wales, later

Europeans plan to standardise mobile telephone systems

By Ralf Gunther Munchow

STUTTGART — Many sales representatives have a mobile telephone. If they want to make a call, they just pull it out of the road and use their press-button keypad.

But the moment they cross into another country, contact fades. This is soon to change. From 1991, 15 European postal services plan to operate a uniform digital mobile phone network.

By then an estimated 10 million European subscribers, including two million West Germans, will be able to communicate by car or mobile phone (cellular phones) via the new D (for digital) network.

The service is to be provided at a price the man in the street can afford — as opposed to the DM 10,000 or so mobile phones now cost.

In a few years' time the investment is expected to be a mere DM 3,000 and pundits feel DM 2,000 will be well within reach (which is what the most expensive video recorder cost not long ago).

A go-ahead was given recently when the West German Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling talked with his British, French and Italian counterparts in Bonn.

He announced after the meeting that agreement had been reached on a joint approach to the digital mobile phone network.

The terms agreed were a compromise, and not one that was easily arrived at, with France and Germany of all countries baulking at agreeing to proposals submitted by a majority of European Postal Union (CEPT) countries.

Two schools of thought — wide or narrow band — were long at loggerheads, with an open clash occurring at a CEPT conference in Madeira at the end of February.

Narrow band technology is simpler and less expensive, whereas wide band technology, although more expensive, seems likelier to ensure higher-quality transmission.

After protracted debate on regulations and standards 13 of the 15 CEPT member-countries advocated narrow band technology at the Madeira gathering, with Bonn and Paris demurring — on technical grounds, they said.

That looked like putting paid not only to the higher-quality technique but also to a Franco-German joint venture in mobile phone technology.

A consortium consisting of AEG and SEL of Germany and ATR and SAT of France, plus Italtel of Milan, had early convinced the French and German postal services of the quality of their CD 900 wide band system.

It was very much a case of all smiles and Franco-German friendship. Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand had personally prompted this pan-European project at their October 1984 Bad Kreuznach summit.

The postal services of the other 13 countries were not alone in voicing misgivings about the wide band system championed in Bonn and Paris. Objections were raised in the Federal Republic by Siemens of Munich.

Siemens had developed, in conjunction with Ericsson of Sweden, a narrow band system of its own. Bosch of Stuttgart and ANF of Backnang were also early backers of the narrow band technique — that has now made the running.

France and Germany, out on a limb after being outvoted 13-2 at Madeira, felt unsure of themselves and began to reconsider their position.

The CEPT deadline expired on 16 March. A fortnight later, at the CeBit trade fair in Hannover, the wide band manufacturers voiced annoyance, having sensed that the tide was turning against them.

All that could be elicited from Bonn was the information that the authorities were reviewing the situation. But behind the

scenes it was clear that Bonn was on the point of breaking ranks and siding with the narrow band majority.

The French government felt unable to follow suit without further ado; that would mean losing face. So a political compromise had to pave the way to agreement.

At the beginning of April the French proposed — still behind the scenes — adopting as the European standard a narrow band system devised by Alcatel, a French company.

As a further sop to French prestige Paris made its approval subject to the proviso that part of the wide band system was laid on as an extra to the narrow band system for all.

Bonn endorsed this strategy, assured itself of the approval of Britain and Italy (both narrow band supporters) and brought pressure to bear on the others.

The CEPT countries seem likely to accept the compromise worked out by the Big Four, with a final decision due to be reached in Brussels between 9 and 12 June.

Agreement on the basis of the compromise proposal would benefit all concerned.

First, it would set up a common market with an estimated annual turnover of between DM 15m and DM 30m. Second, Europe would from 1991 boast the world's most advanced mobile phone system.

Last but not least, the narrow band frequencies fit more easily than a wide band system into the gaps between existing radio services left by postal administrations.

A handy portable cordless radio telephone from Europe could go on to become a world

bestseller.

The most serious technical problem seems sure to be the system's liability to break down — a problem subscribers to the C network, launched a year ago, are only too familiar with.

Car phone calls are often interrupted when either too many calls overburden the system or tall buildings block the radio waves in built-up areas.

Signals can then be superimposed on calls or distort them. In Austria and Switzerland the mountains add to the problem.

In the analog C network the Bundespost hopes to solve this problem by means of more transmitter stations. Filters are planned to ensure "clean" speech and data transmission via the digital D network.

When the C network was launched on May 1, 1986 a backlog of 11,000 applications for a mobile

phone awaiting processing.

Just over a year later about 30,000 subscribers use the C network even though equipment and installation costs roughly DM 10,000.

The Bundespost expects the C network's capacity to be exhausted by the end of the decade. It will then number 280,000 car phone subscribers.

The B network, in operation since the early 1970s, has long run at full capacity. It can handle only 27,000 subscribers.

Scandinavians are the keenest car phone-users at present. One car in 27 in Denmark, Norway and Sweden has a mobile phone.

Demand is brisk in less industrialised countries outside Europe, such as Saudi Arabia, with 10,000 car phones.

Mexico plans to set up a system for operation in Mexico City.

— Stuttgarter Zeitung.

Randa Habib's

Combatting AIDS

AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is not a problem in Jordan. But, still, the virus is out there in the world and we can't just ignore it, as if we are not part of that world.

It is very important that we recognise that AIDS is a serious threat to people's health and to humanity at large. For that we should find the ways to prevent this virus from propagating in our country. I don't mean that we should get hysterical about it, but we should not just ignore it altogether.

I think it would be wise to create a committee that would identify the possible means that would "bring" the disease into the country and propose general guidelines to prevent that. This committee should not only comprise doctors, as AIDS is not only a medical problem, but also a social one. A good informative campaign addressed especially to citizens travelling to infected countries and to students planning to study abroad, must be launched. People must know everything that is already internationally known about the risks of getting the disease.

Acting as though we are untouchable will never protect us. It is true that we do not have a problem of drug addiction in Jordan, and that sexual behaviour is dictated by a deep sense of the family life. But once again, we are not a country cut off from the world and we have the duty of dealing very seriously with this deadly disease.

First kisses, stolen kisses and old kissing games

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — Bjorn Borg did it on the Wimbledon centre court. Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman did it on the silver screen. French people seem to be doing it everywhere all the time.

Kissing his trophy showed the cool Swede's joy in his tennis victory, and the Grant-Bergman embrace, in Alfred Hitchcock's "Notorious," ranks among the longest and most passionate kisses ever filmed. But for the French, the kiss is simply a way to say hello and goodbye.

In a country where greeting a roomful of people can take five minutes by the time everyone's cheeks get pecked, kissing is se-

rious business. So serious, that a university professor and journalist have written a 294-page book on the subject.

Le Baiser, (the kiss) by Xavier Fauche and Christiane Noetzelin and published last month by Stock, tells everything anyone might ever want to know about kissing — from first kisses, stolen kisses and warm-up kisses to the germ content of saliva.

Historical documents, literary references and scholarly opinions abound. In the chapter on maternal kisses, psychoanalyst Françoise Dolto warns that small children confuse kissing with cannibalism and urges mothers against smothering.

The French may be Europe's busiest kissers. Families kiss

when they come down for breakfast and again before they leave for school or work. They greet friends with a kiss — two or three depending on age and region — and again when they part. And it starts all over when they get home and go to bed.

Young girls are trained to proffer the right cheek, aim away from the mouth and never make the first move. When in doubt, it's forehead first.

The book also looks at kissing through the ages. In 19th century France for example, *Maraichinage* — a French kissing game — was a socially accepted practice that allowed young girls to try out the techniques of their potential husbands.

Held only on Sundays, it in-

involved deep tongue kissing between at least 10 or more couples who changed partners weekly. In some parts of France, the "tongue duelling," which often led further, took place outdoors, behind colourful parasols stuck into the ground, which the authors described as "intimacy in public, outdoors."

In other regions, *Maraichinage* took place only in church, with couples sitting opposite each other on narrow benches. Clergymen banned the practice in 1864.

Despite its suggestive title, much *Le Baiser* reads like a doctoral thesis, with long chapters on kissing in sculpture, painting, opera and on the silver screen.

Public Watch Exhibition

A public watch exhibition will be held today at the Amman Plaza Hotel

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Harare to go ahead with constitutional amendments

Whites to lose separate parliamentary seats

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe is set to enter a new political era after the announcement of government plans for sweeping changes to its British-drafted independence constitution.

President Canaan Banana, opening a new session of parliament Tuesday, said it would consider legislation this year to scrap reserved parliamentary seats for the white minority and introduce an executive presidency and a single-chamber assembly.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, who accepted racial representation unwillingly when the constitution was negotiated in London in 1979, is expected to become president when the new laws are passed.

"Banana read himself out of office," commented a black Zimbabwean company executive who declined to be named.

Under the present constitution, Zimbabwe's 100,000 whites were guaranteed 20 seats in the 100-member Lower House of Assem-

bly and a further 10 in the 40-seat Senate.

The separate white representation could be scrapped by a unanimous vote before seven years or by agreement of at least 70 legislators after that period.

There was speculation that Zimbabwe, which became independent in 1980 after a seven-year guerrilla war for black majority rule, would unilaterally abolish the white seats.

But Mr. Mugabe waited for the seven years to pass before making his move.

Tuesday's announcement had been widely expected after frequent denunciations of the independence constitution by leaders of the ruling ZANU-PF Party.

ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union/Patriotic Front)

has 67 members in the lower house and is certain to get the three extra votes it needs to see through its proposed changes.

Abolition of the Senate, which includes 10 tribal chiefs, is unlikely to be controversial as the chamber has played a mainly ceremonial role.

Composition of the proposed new single-chamber parliament has not been disclosed, but some political commentators predict it will have 140 members — the majority elected by voters, others by the house sitting as an electoral college.

The new executive president is also expected to retain powers to nominate some members of parliament, giving him a constitutional right to dispense political patronage.

The white community, suspicious of the black-led government's commitment to the rule of law, appeared to greet Tuesday's announcement with resignation.

Hawke faces charges of complacency after speech

SYDNEY (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke Wednesday faced charges of complacency and warnings that his Labour Party was taking a dangerous course ahead of next month's election by avoiding discussion of the economic problems facing Australia.

Reaction to Mr. Hawke's emotional campaign-opening policy speech at the Sydney Opera House Tuesday was divided between a minority who rated it brave and those, including opposition leader John Howard, who said its content was vague and potentially foolhardy.

Mr. Hawke urged the country's 10.5 million voters to judge his government on its record since coming to power in 1983 and to compare the achievements of his team with the disunity in the opposition Liberal-National Party coalition.

The speech contained one new measure — a financial package for underprivileged families — but noticeably lacked any real clue to the Labour government's intentions if elected for an unprecedented third successive term on July 11.

"The clear message from Labour for Australia is steady as she goes," said Mr. Howard. "Look what the 'trust me' policies of the 1983 and 1984 elections have given to Australia — record interest rates, record bankruptcies, record overseas debt."

Mr. Howard accused the media of bias earlier in the campaign because of its fixation with the rifts in his coalition, now patched up, and its unrelenting criticism of the Liberals' tax-cutting policy.

But Mr. Howard, still well behind Mr. Hawke in opinion polls, could have no complaints Wednesday as Australia's major newspapers united in their first big attack on Mr. Hawke's style of government since the snap election was called on May 27.

Commentators attacked Mr. Hawke's pitch that it would be a patriotic move to vote Labour and labelled as impossible to achieve his claim that the new aid for the low-paid would help ensure that by 1990 no child would be living in poverty.

2 drown after boat capsizes off Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Two children drowned after they leaped into the Straits of Malacca from a boat that capsized and then caught fire from spilling oil, Marine Police said Wednesday.

Marine Police chief Abdul Rahman Kidam told reporters the drowning victims were the 2-year-old daughter of Sasamudin Harun, 23, of Sumatra, Indonesia, and a 9-month-old Indonesian boy.

Abdul Rahman said the boat, carrying 24 Malaysians and Indonesians, was on its way from Pulau Island Karimun in Indonesia to Pontian in Malaysia, 300 kilometres south of Kuala Lumpur, when it capsized and caught fire Sunday.

Abdul Rahman said the passing Greek ship Kartini Diamantini rescued 22 passengers.

Zhao ends Pakistan visit

ISLAMABAD (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang left Wednesday for Peking after a four-day visit to Pakistan during which he held talks with President Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Mr. Zhao met Gen. Zia on Tuesday night, and Pakistani officials said there was complete identity of views on issues such as Afghanistan, the Middle East and the situation in South Asia. They gave no details.

Also present at the meeting was Mr. Junejo, who had separate talks with Mr. Zhao on Monday.

Both sides have called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and Kampuchea and an improvement in their often strained relations with India.

During the visit Mr. Zhao announced a 100 million yuan (\$27 million) interest-free loan for Pakistan and the two countries also decided to expand bilateral trade.

On Tuesday, China donated relief supplies for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, including 1,250 tonnes of rice, 30 trucks, one million yards (914,400 metres) of cotton cloth and 200,000 pairs of shoes.

Pakistan is playing host to an estimated three million Afghans who fled their country during more than eight years of war between the Soviet-backed government and Western-backed guerrillas.

Others in planning and carrying out his dramatic flight.

The incident has led to a top-level shake-up in the Soviet military, including the removal of the defence minister and the commander of air defence forces.

The Bonn correspondent of the Communist Party daily Pravda has twice cited West German press reports on the affair as suggesting that Rust may have been acting on behalf of other unspecified people.

A Soviet official was quoted Wednesday as saying Rust has given conflicting stories about whether he planned his flight to Moscow alone and named people who allegedly helped him.

Valentin Falin, 61, chief of the Soviet state-run news agency Novosti, told the Munich-published Bunte magazine that the Rust had changed his story about events leading up to his May 28 flight to Red Square.

"At first his version was that he had conceived and prepared everything alone. No one helped him with it. Later, however, he named names of people who knew something about the matter and who helped him," Mr. Falin was quoted as saying.

Mr. Falin did not identify the people who were allegedly named by Rust.

Bunte, an illustrated weekly, appears at newsstands Thursdays, but a copy of its interview was teleaxed in advance to news organisations in West Germany on Wednesday.

Mr. Falin also told Radio Luxembourg earlier this week that Rust had given conflicting statements to Soviet authorities about his daredevil flight from Helsinki to Moscow in a Cessna 172 light plane.

Sikh extremists kill 2 Hindu priests, policeman

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Suspected Sikh extremists shot to death two Hindu priests and a policeman Wednesday in the troubled Northern Indian state of Punjab, police said.

The latest killings raised to at least 425 the number of deaths blamed on Sikh militants in Punjab this year. Most of the victims of the Sikh separatists have been Hindus and moderate Sikhs.

Last year, more than 700 people died in the state in violence blamed on Sikh extremists.

In the latest killings, two Hindu priests were shot at point blank range in a temple near the town of Tarn Taran, 25 kilometres south of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, according to police.

Police last week rounded up more than 60 men suspected of being Sikh militants or sympathisers in the Tarn Taran area. The policeman was killed as he was going to work in Hoshiarpur district in north east Punjab.

Police said they killed two sus-

pected Sikh extremists Wednesday in Western Ferozpur district on the border with Pakistan and "recovered a rich haul of weapons."

Meanwhile the West Bengal state government has invoked the stringent anti-terrorist act in Darjeeling district to control continuing violence by Gurkha militants, police sources said Wednesday.

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu ordered the act put into effect to ensure people arrested would not be released on bail, said the sources.

Sources in Darjeeling confirmed the act was being applied, but no official announcement was made in Calcutta or Darjeeling.

Gurkha activists, who are fighting for a separate ethnic state, have destroyed scores of government buildings, tourist lodges and schools since Saturday, when the Gurkha National Liberation Front began a 13-day general strike.

Chad to let U.S., France examine Soviet weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — Chadian President Hissene Habre has indicated U.S. and French officials would both be allowed to examine captured Soviet military equipment.

"Cooperation is not a one-way street," Mr. Habre told reporters, referring to France and the United States. Both countries provided assistance to help Chad repel the Libyans.

"If we can do anything for France and the United States, why not do it?" he added.

The U.S. Defence Department

has expressed interest in examining hundreds of millions of dollars in Soviet-made equipment, including attack helicopters, captured by Mr. Habre's troops when they defeated Libyan forces in Chad.

The issue was discussed when Mr. Habre attended a working lunch with Deputy Defence Secretary William Taft.

He also expressed confidence the United States would provide his country with the maximum financial aid possible.

Haiti disbands labour union

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's provisional government on Tuesday disbanded a major labour union, dismissed two members of the country's Electoral Council and announced it would be taking a more direct role in upcoming elections.

The television announcement Tuesday night by the three-man National Governing Council came after a two-day general strike that had partially closed down businesses in Port-au-Prince, the capital.

LL-Gen. Henri Namphy, who heads the Provisional Council, said that by decree the govern-

ment had thrown out an electoral law formulated by the independent, nine-member Provisional Electoral Council, and was replacing the law with a decree.

However, he did not reveal the content of the government's decree or say what aspects of the Electoral Council's law would be changed.

The Electoral Council, which under the constitution has the sole right to run the country's balloting, just hours before had announced that voting for 140 mayors would be held in Aug. 23, and that a general election would be in Nov. 27.

Alfonsin optimistic over L. American summit in '87

EXTAPA, Mexico (Agencies) — A summit of eight Latin American presidents from the Contadora group and its support panel is likely to be held by the end of this year, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin said.

In a brief statement to reporters after holding talks with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, Mr. Alfonsin said a meeting between leaders of the Contadora group and its so-called support group was "probable" for the end of the year.

The Contadora group — Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia — has been working since 1983 to promote a negotiated settlement to Central American conflicts.

It was later joined by Argentina, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil, forming the support group.

In recent years the groups have broadened their scope and addressed the need for economic integration among Latin American countries and taken to calling themselves the Group of Eight.

Mr. Alfonsin and Mr. De la

Madrid spent about four hours together on Tuesday afternoon holding private talks and lunching in a government-owned house in this Pacific resort town.

According to Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, a key theme of the meeting was the need to promote a smaller summit of Central American presidents aimed at discussing a regional peace accord.

Meanwhile Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was expected to meet with his Panamanian counterpart to discuss faltering Central American peace efforts, Panamanian newspapers and the Nicaraguan embassy announced Tuesday.

Embassy spokesman Daniel Martinez told Reuters Mr. Ortega confirmed his visit in a telephone conversation late Monday with President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

He said Mr. Ortega, who plans to arrive here with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, will remain in Panama for 12 to 24 hours on his first official visit here.

House passes legislation for tougher embassy security

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives have passed a 1988-89 State Department funding bill that would bar Soviet diplomats from moving into their new embassy in Washington until the bug-ridden U.S. mission in Moscow was made secure.

The bill also would restrict freedom of travel for U.S. citizens to go to Nicaragua or elsewhere in Central America for the stated purpose of helping Communist military forces.

The legislation, which passed 303 to 111, provided some \$2.8 billion in 1988 funding for the State Department, well under the \$3.9 billion requested by President Reagan. The 1989 funding levels were about the same.

The Senate must approve the bill and congressional aides said it was likely many of the amendments would be modified before it is sent to Mr. Reagan for signing.

One of the key amendments attached to the bill would require

the State Department to withdraw from the contract providing for Moscow's new embassy in Washington, and the partially constructed U.S. embassy in Moscow.

Meanwhile a former Marine guard at the U.S. embassy in Moscow has been charged with lying to investigators about another guard in a sex-spy scandal, the Marine Corps said Tuesday.

The charges against Corporal Robert Williams 22, of New York, appeared to further cloud the six-month-old case, in which four former Marine guards in Moscow and Leningrad were earlier arrested and two of them subsequently released.

The Marine Corps and the Pentagon have denied published reports that they may have botched the investigation or overstated the scope of the case.

Marine Sergeant Clayton Lonetree is to be court-martialed next month on charges of espionage in Moscow in 1985.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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V IS FOR VIENNA COUP

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

♠ A 10 6 3

♥ A K 9 8

♦ A 10 8 5

WEST

♠ 9 7 5 3

♥ A K J 6 2

♦ 10 3

♣ 8 4

♠ 9 7 6 2

WEST

♠ A K J 6 2

♥ Void

♦ K J 7 3

SOUTH

♠ 4

♥ K Q J 9 8 7 5

♦ 10 6 2

♣ Q

The bidding:

East South West North

1 ♠ 3 ♥ Pass 6 ♥

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

The Vienna Coup is really a simple squeeze. However, before it can operate, declarer must play off a winner or winners in a suit to set up a lower-ranking card in the correct position as a threat.

After South's weak jump overcall, North could count 10 or 11 tricks with the help of a spade ruff. Since there are 11 sure tricks a 12th can frequently be developed. North wasted no time in getting to slam.

West led a spade, East won and for want of anything better, shifted to the queen of diamonds. There were only 11 top tricks — the 12th would have to come either from ruffing out the king-jack of clubs

or a squeeze. Since East almost surely had the king of clubs and the defense virtually marked him with the jack of diamonds, declarer chose the squeeze as the sure line. However, East would be discarding after dummy, so a threat card had to be set up in the South hand.

Declarer won the diamond in dummy, came to hand with a trump and ruffed a spade. After drawing the last trump, declarer cashed his remaining high diamond and then started to run trumps.

When he led his last heart, the table was down to a diamond and the ace-10 of clubs, and East held the jack of diamonds and king-jack of clubs. Dummy parted with its diamond, but East was caught in a vice. As the cards lie, he had to hold onto both of his clubs or else dummy's 10 would be the fulfilling trick, and his jack of diamonds was needed to prevent declarer's 10 from scoring. No matter what he chose to discard, he would be presenting declarer with his slam.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Stevenson

PRO PATRIA
By Sidney L. Robbins

ACROSS

1 Opponent

5 Sedan Baden &

8 Mental

13 Head

16 Livestock wheat

19 Bundles of hay

21 Reason d'

22 Basketball

23 Marsh birds

24 On top of

25 Travel advisory

26 Encourages

29 Arabian gulf

30 Flare

31 Autocrat

32 Female ruff

34 Marks cattle

DOWN

1 Piglets

2 Obscure carefully

3 Head

4 Thought

5 Fifth fire

6 Dual

7 Fish sauce

8 Hamble

9 Sun region

10 Illinois

11 There

12 Cows

13 Butt

14 Pled

15 Ad the ham

16 Snow toys

17 Kind of path

18 Infatuated

19 End of war

20 God of war

21 Dugout

22 Luring vigor

24 Mark's place

25 Freeze

26 No-hit pitcher

27 Bob

28 Born

29 Ruth

30 Publicist

31 Saccharine secretion

32 Equilateral parallelogram

33 Kind

34 "a man

35 Said

36 Traversing

37 Was impudent

38 Cadences

39 All possible

40 Kind of plane

41 Hgt.

42 College roar

43 Faction

44 Part of Earth

45 Pagan name

46 Tasty

47 Spread

48 Next to last

49 Adjust an alarm

50 No-hit pitcher

51 (1973)

52 Cal's neighbor

53 Mo.

54 Ancient instruments

55 No-hit pitcher

56 Messiah

57 Luzon native

58 Vail dancer

59 Stoop

60 Gas

61 Unattended

62 Senses

63 Old-time

64 W.C. Tipton

65

66

67

68

69

70